

ORAL QUESTION WITH DEBATE O-0009/04

pursuant to Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure

by Michel Rocard, on behalf of the Committee on Culture, Youth, Education, the Media and Sport to the Council

Subject: Olympic Truce

In the framework of the Olympic Games 2004 there will be a special 'Olympic Truce' project. The initiative is based on the ancient Greek tradition of ekecheiria having as a main aim the cessation of conflicts world-wide during the Olympic Games. At the same time, it allows a peaceful environment and the safe passage and participation of athletes, artists and spectators at the Games.

It is our conviction that culture can immensely contribute to peace and the reduction of conflicts. As the Olympic Games are taking place in Europe this year, the Member States of the EU should support the International Olympic Committee in its efforts to promote peace and human understanding through sport and the Olympic ideal. The Member States should be encouraged to cooperate with the International Olympic Committee in its efforts to use the Olympic Truce as an instrument to promote peace and reconciliation in areas of conflict during and beyond the Olympic Games period. At the same time, it is important to support the observance of the Olympic Truce and to promote human development initiatives through sport, notably by the European Year of Education through Sport. In the conclusions of the European Council in Brussels of 12 December 2003, the Council declares its support for the idea of the Olympic Truce and welcomes the relevant resolution agreed unanimously by the United Nations General Assembly.

Will the Council mobilise all international sports organisations and the National Olympic Committees of the Member States to undertake concrete actions at world level to promote and strengthen a culture of peace based on the Olympic Truce initiative?

Tabled: 06.02.2004

Forwarded: 09.02.2004

Deadline for reply: 01.03.2004